

ACTION WHA-00

INFO LOG-00 EEB-00 AID-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 DODE-00
DS-00 VCI-00 DIAS-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 LAB-01
L-00 ARMY-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 VCIE-00 NSAE-00 ISN-00
NSCE-00 OIC-00 OIG-00 OMB-00 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00
P-00 ISNE-00 SP-00 SS-00 STR-00 T-00 IIP-00
PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-00 G-00 SAS-00 FA-00
SWCI-00 /001W

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R 210319Z AUG 09

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7982

INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE

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DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior Reviewer

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S E C R E T MEXICO 002473

NOFORN

SIPDIS

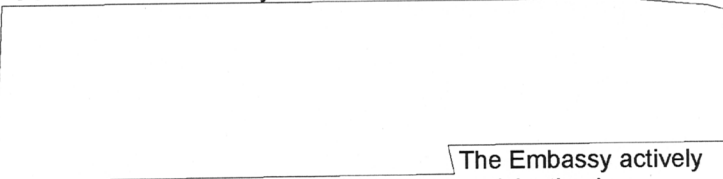
E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/21/2017

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, KCRM, PINR, SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON ZETAS AND U.S.
MILITARY TRAINING

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Charles Barclay
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

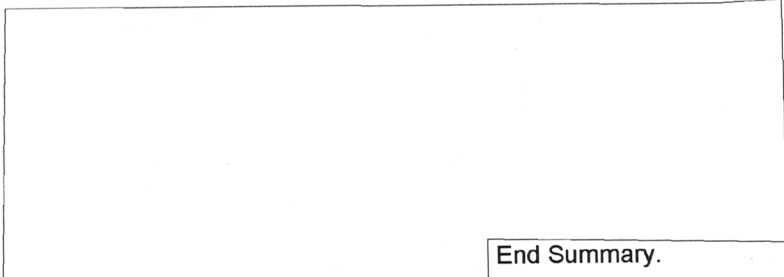
1. (S/NOFORN) Summary: Since 1996, U.S. Embassy Mexico City has maintained an electronic database of all Mexican military trained with U.S. funds. These records show that the USG has trained nearly of 5,000 Mexican military personnel,



The Embassy actively vets GOM security officials selected for participation in U.S.-funded training programs for involvement in human rights abuses or other criminal activities. The U.S. also sponsors training activities, exercises, and exchanges that promote human rights within the Mexican military. Separately, the Mexican Government has proposed legislation to increase the penalty for GOM military personnel implicated in organized crime activities.

B1
1.4(D)

Classification Extended on : 08/22/2013 ~ Class: SECRET ~ Authority: DSCG
11-1 ~ ☐ Declassify on: 08/20/2034

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End Summary.

The Raw Data

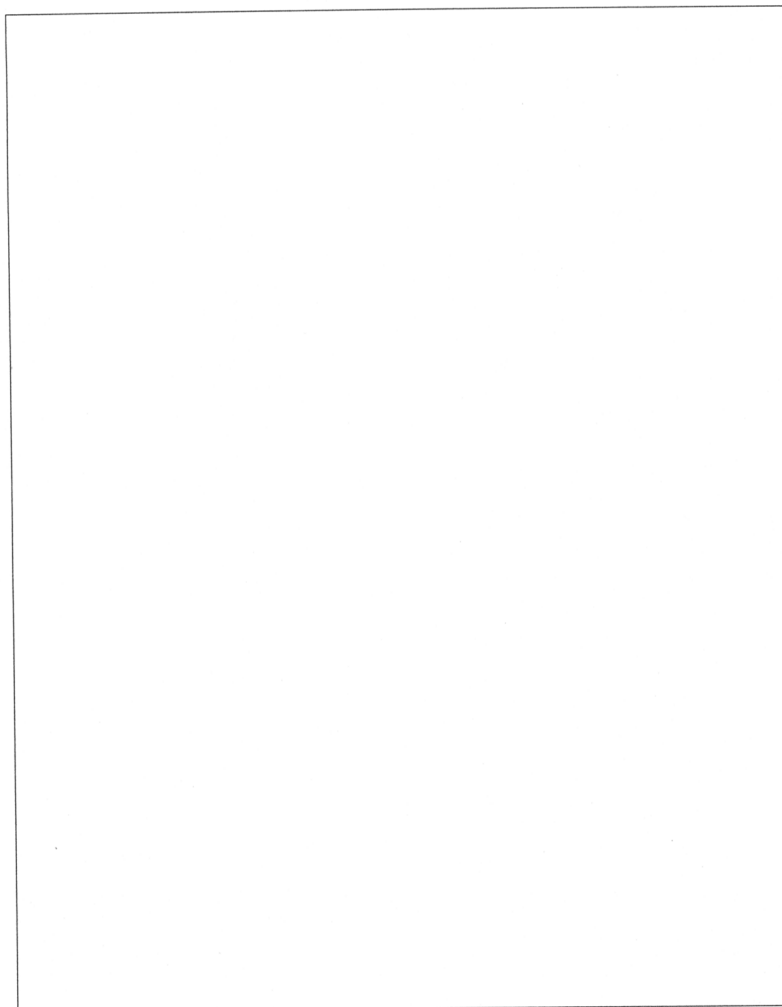
2. (SBU) Since 1996, the Embassy's Office of Defense Coordination (ODC) has maintained an electronic database of all Mexican military personnel that receive U.S.-funded military training. The database categorizes the individuals by military organization -- SEDENA or SEMAR -- as well as by the type of training they receive. The numbers below show Mexican military members trained in the U.S. and Mexico. The training in Mexico by U.S. personnel involves subject matter exchanges, seminars, conferences, and mobile training teams. The training conducted in the U.S. normally is individual-level training, although some tactical-level training includes special forces training. According to ODC's database, since 1996 the U.S. has trained the following number of Mexican military personnel.

1996 - 440
1997 - 236
1998 - 693
1999 - 1271
2000 - 282
2002 - 225
2003 - 207
2004 - 162
2005 - 185
2006 - 184
2008 - 177
2009 - 517 (to be completed by end of FY 09)

Total: 4952

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B1
1.4(D)



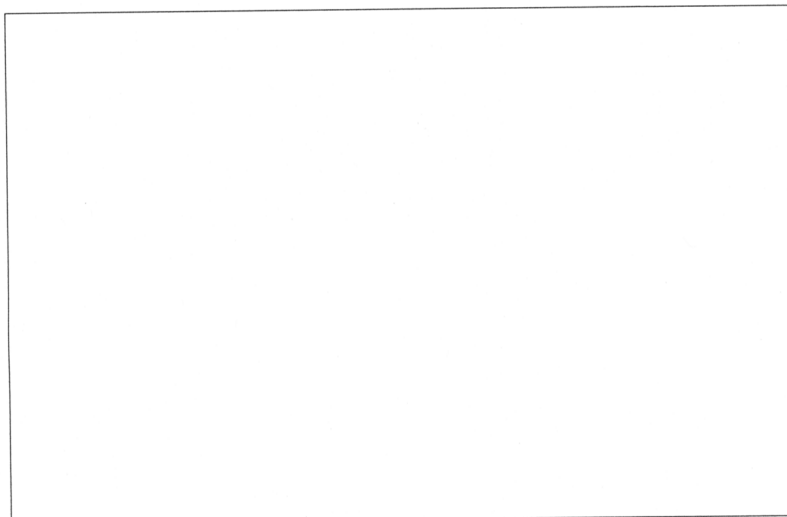
Vetting and Training Provide Additional Protections

6. (SBU) Since 1998, U.S. law requires Leahy human rights vetting for any individual participating in U.S.-sponsored training. Post and ODC administers a robust human rights vetting program and every Mexican participant in our military training program is subject to these legal requirements prior to the training event. By law, we deny training to any candidate implicated in a human rights abuse.

Raising the Stakes For Soldiers Going Bad

7. (SBU) In April 2009, President Calderon proposed a piece of legislation that would mandate a 60-year prison sentence for any member of the military that deserts and subsequently engages in organized crime activity. Drafters of the legislation hope that this bill will discourage soldiers from using their military training for criminal purposes. All major political parties agree on the bill's content. Adoption of the bill would represent the first time the

federal government directly mandates a change to the Mexican Military Code. This point may generate some debate when the Mexican Congress reconvenes in September and reviews the bill.



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1.4(D)

Visit Mexico City's Classified Web Site at
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/wha/mexicocity> and the North American
Partnership Blog at <http://www.intelink.gov/communities/state/nap/>

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